



CITY OF EAU CLAIRE

Department of Public Works

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Flood Update

Chippewa River Update

Friday, March 13, 2015, 4:30 p.m.

At 3:45 p.m. this afternoon, the Chippewa River gauge at Grand Avenue read 762.1, which is approximately eleven (11) feet below the downtown flood stage of elevation 773. Lower sections of the Chippewa River Trail in the city of Eau Claire are currently open.

Spring flooding along the Chippewa River in Eau Claire typically occurs due to melting snow in the upper watershed. Current information provided by the National Weather Service indicates minimal snow cover with minimal water content in the upper Chippewa River watershed. Warm temperatures forecast for this weekend are expected to melt the remaining snow cover.

An official crest has not been established for this spring, although it is anticipated that the gauge readings may increase 1 or 2 feet over the next few days and then begin to subside. At these gauge readings, some flooding may be experienced in the lower areas of Owen Park. It is not anticipated at this time that any lower sections of the Chippewa River Trail within the city will be inundated. This projection may change in the event of rainfall events in the upper Chippewa River watershed or due to operational activities by hydro-electric projects along the Chippewa River or its tributaries.

Flood waters can generate stronger faster currents. In addition, lower water temperatures increase the risk of hypothermia. Extreme caution should be exercised by persons using the rivers for boating, canoeing, kayaking, shore-side fishing, tubing, swimming, wading, or activities near the water. Hazards involving high water levels, strong currents, floating or submerged wood debris or trees, and obscured pilings are present on the Chippewa River.

The City will continue to monitor the river closely and report information as it is obtained. Residents along or near the river are also asked to monitor nearby river conditions in order to have as much advanced warning of those changes. Information is available on the City web site at www.eauclairewi.gov and on the Public Works Message Line at (715) 839-6002. For further information about this news release or river elevations, please contact the City of Eau Claire, Department of Public Works at (715) 839-4934.

For Immediate Release
March 13, 2015
4:30 p.m.